

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ABSTRACT**

Rural Development – Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) – Expansion of community managed Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres through Revolving Fund Model – Orders - Issued.

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**PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.I) DEPARTMENT**

GO.Ms.No. 412

Dated:1.12.2010  
Read the following:

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 11-10-2010 by Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Rural Development, dt. 11-10-2010
2. Proposal dated 27-11-2010 of CEO, SERP.

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The Society for elimination of rural poverty (SERP) has been at the forefront in pioneering a multi-faceted approach for elimination of poverty. Studies have proved that the low education attainment levels in the rural poor, acts as a barrier in crossing the poverty line, part of which is explained by the absence of access to early childhood education (ECE). In the absence of ECE centres, the attainment levels in primary schools are typically low, leading eventually to high drop out rate in the rural schools.

2. CEO SERP reported that federation of SHGs have been agitating for providing access to ECE for the rural poor households so that it forms a solid basis for the future life of their children. Based on their demand, SERP has experimented with a community-based model for provision of ECE. Under this, community manages an ECE centre named 'Bala badi' where the teaching learning is done on a joyful song-and-play method. After assessing the pilots done in a two districts, which showed high levels of motivation and educational attainment on the part of the children, CEO SERP proposed to expand the ECE centres to all tribal areas in the state which are traditionally lagging in educational attainment levels. He has proposed that all these centres should be made sustainable by providing a revolving fund of Rs.2.5 lakhs to the Village Organisation (VO) of SHGs meeting the same from the World Bank assisted AP reduction of rural poverty project (APRPRP). CEO, SERP also proposed that there shall be a District Resource Centres (DRCs) and State Resource Centres (SRCs) in order to maintain a high level of service delivery.

3. Government, after careful consideration, approved the proposal of CEO SERP to expand the community-managed Early Childhood Centres (ECEs) to rural & tribal areas in the State; and to make them sustainable by using the funds under the APRPR Project after taking due approvals as has been laid down in the Project guidelines. The ECE system shall be made functional in the following manner:

a) The ECE centres shall be funded & managed by the concerned VOs. For this purpose, each VO shall be given a Corpus Fund of Rs. 2.5 lakhs, which shall be used for lending to SHGs and generating resources needed for running of the ECE centres.

b) For identifying, training, motivating, equipping & monitoring the ECE centres, there shall be a suitably-staffed and adequately-trained District Resource Centre (DRC) in each district.

c) Each Zilla Samakhya (ZS) of SHGs shall be mandated to generate resources required for running the DRC in their district. For this purpose, a revolving fund of Rupees one crore shall be given to each ZS; which shall in turn, be used for lending to Mandal Mahila Samakhyas (MMS) for undertaking income generating activities by the SHGs.

d) For incubating, establishing, guiding, training, monitoring and providing technical support to the DRCs, there shall be (2) State Resource Centres (SRCs) set up by M/S Sodhana and M/S Centre for Development and Research (CDR). The SRCs shall also design and deliver the academic components as per the district specific pedagogical needs.

4. CEO, SERP is requested to ensure that the ECE centres are established at the earliest by starting from the tribal areas of Khammam, Warangal, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**R. SUBRAHMANYAM**

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD)

To

The Chief Executive Officer, SERP, Hyderabad.

The Commissioner Tribal Welfare

The Director, Sodhana Resource Centre, Chipurupally, Vizianagaram

The Director, Centre for Development and Research, Utnoor, Adilabad

The Dist. Collectors and Dist. Programme Coordinators of AP Districts.

The Project Directors of DRDAs of all Districts.

The Project Officers of ITDAs

The Project Directors & Addl. DPCs of DRDA, of all Districts.

The Tata Consultancy Services, High Tech City, Hyderabad

Copy to the Secretary to Government, PR & RD, Hyderabad.

Copy to the PS to Principal Secretary, PR & RD, Hyderabad.

Copy to the General Section, PR & RD, Hyderabad.

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SECTION OFFICER